

There after foloweth a treatyse take out  
 of a booke whiche somtyme Theodosius  
 the Emperour founde in Iherusalem in  
 the pretorpe of pylate of Joseph of Ar-  
 mathy. K

**Ihesus nazaren<sup>9</sup> rex iudeorum.**



Jesus nazaren<sup>9</sup> rex iudeorum.



**D**z almoche as oftentimes grete doub-  
tes & doubtfull thynges decepueth the  
reders / therfore all doubtess sette a parte  
ye shall se dyuers thynges extracte of the  
beray true & probate assercyons of hysto-  
ryal men touchynge and concernynge thantiquytes  
of thonourable monastery of oure lady in Glasten-  
burpe. After the tyme that our sauour Ihesu cryste  
was put vnto deth by passyon of the crosse & all thyng-  
ges were fully complete whiche were wyrtten and spo-  
ken of hys by holy prophecy. That holy man Ioseph  
of Armathy came vnto pylate and asked of hym the  
body of our sauour Ihesu cryste / whan þ body was  
graunted to hym he wrapped it in a fayre whyte clo-  
the and interyd it in a tombe newely made where ne-  
uer man was buryed in / what tyme the Jewes had  
partye knowlege that this Ioseph had so worshyp-  
fully brought the body of cryst in erthe / they thought  
bitterly in theyr myndes and kest so also the meanes  
how they myght set handes vpon hym / & one named  
Nychodemus and many dyuers other þ whiche we-  
re the beray true louers and iust aduocates of our sa-  
uour fledde and kepte them secretely / excepte onely  
the sayd Ioseph & Nychodem<sup>s</sup> whiche full boldly pre-  
sented them selfe & made rehersall vnto þ Jewes vnder  
these wordes / what sholde moue you to be dys-  
pleased w<sup>th</sup> vs for almoche as we haue buryed þ body  
of Ihesu cryst / knowe ye full well sayd Ioseph & Nychodemus to þ Jewes þ ye haue mydone agaynst þ  
ryghtfull man / ye cast ne thynke not in your myndes  
the grete benefytes he hath done and shewed to you

Ioseph. Ar.

All.

ye haue for his grete goodnes crucifyed hym & with  
a sharpe spere wounded hym. The Jewes herynge tho  
se wordes set hande on Joseph and closed hym in an  
house where was no wyndowe / & annas & cayphas  
sealed the doze vpon the locke and assygned and de  
puted cretayne men to kepe hym and watche hym /  
and his felowe Archodemus was let goo at lyberte.  
They intreated Joseph soo vngoodly for as moche  
that he was the man that despyed the body of Ihesu  
cryst / and was the pryncypall mouer and begynner  
that þ body was so woꝛshypfully interyd & buryed /  
after this was done vpon theyr sabbat daye they gas  
deryd them in a compayne þ chiefe rulers of the tem  
ple and caste theyr myndes togyder how & by what  
maner of dethe they myght deshoꝛe Joseph & whan  
they were all in fere Annas and Cayphas were com  
maunded by theym to present Joseph for as moche  
as they had sealed þ doze where he was inclosed in &  
whan theyr scales were broken & the doze opened Jo  
seph was gone. Than they sent out spyes to seke hym  
& fynally he was foude in his owne cyte called Ara  
mathya / & whan they had redy tydynge & perfyte  
knowlege of it / bothe chiefe rulers & all the compynals  
te of the Jewes inioyed gretely & thanked þ betray  
god of Israell þ it was knowen where Joseph was  
become whiche was thus inclosed vnder kepyge war  
de and custodye. Thenne they gadred in a myltitude  
and they the whiche were pryncypalles and heedes  
preposynge this questyon and sayd what meanes my  
ghte we fynde that we myght craftely haue Joseph  
vnto vs and so for to speke with hym. Thenne they

concluded generally that an epylle sholde be wy-  
ten vnto hym / and this was the effecte of the lettre.  
Joseph peace be with the and with all thy company.  
Nowe we knowe full well that we haue full greuous-  
ly offended god and the / therfore we praye the vouch-  
saue too come vnto vs that we maye comen with the  
for we meruaylle greatly how thou was taken out of  
the place in þe whiche thou was putte / we knowlege  
ourselfe vnto the that we haue maligned soe agayn  
the / therfore almyghty god hath deliuered þe that  
our wyched counseyl and vnhappye mynde myght  
not hurte the / therfore worshyppefull Joseph whi-  
che arte well beloued amonge all people / peace be to  
the. Thenne this epylle made and wyten they cho-  
se seven persones amonge theym all whiche were the  
best and moost synguler frendes that Joseph had &  
sayd vnto theym / whan ye go forth take your way in  
to Aramathia vnto Joseph & grete hym well in our  
behalue and take vnto hym this our epylle / whan þe  
seven persones electe & chosen had theyr full answer  
with theyr lettre deliuered anone they came to þe cy-  
te of Aramathya where Joseph was and full louyn-  
gely salued hym shewynge theyr comynge & the cau-  
se gyu þe vnto hym þe epylle whiche receyued them  
full curtesy / and whan he had ouerlooked the lettre  
and knewe the effecte thenne he sayd these wordes.  
Blessyd be my lord god of Israell whiche hath deli-  
uered and saued me that my blode hath not be shed  
nor I destroyed / blessyd be my lord god the whiche  
hath kepte me vnder his wynges. Thenne Joseph  
in token of loue & peace kyssed the. vii. persones whi-

Joseph. Ar

✱

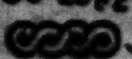


A.iii.

che were sente in message vnto hym and full kindly  
hadde them in to his house. And vpon the nexte daye  
after he toke his alle and walkynge kepte them com-  
pany vnto Iherusalem. And when the Jewes herde  
of his comynge they wente agaynst hym and in their  
metyng sayd with one voyce peace be in thy comyn-  
ge fader Joseph and he resaluted theym vnder this  
maner and sayd. Peace be with you and amonge you  
all and there they kyssed hym all / thenne Archode-  
mus receyued hym in to his house and made hym a  
grette dyner / vpon a daye when the Jewes were ga-  
dered togyder Annas and Caphas sayd vnto Jos-  
eph / Shewe thou now before þe god of Israell & open-  
ly declare vnto vs suche thynges as we shall examyn  
the of for as moche as it is not vnknowen that we  
were soze greued for by cause thou lettest bury the bod-  
dy of Ihesu cryste and therupon we enclosed the in a  
prey house and the morowe we sent to haue spoken  
with the and myght not fynde the / wherfore we mer-  
uaylled gretely and were soze affrayed of it how this  
myghte be vnto this tyme that we se the now / ther-  
fore whyles thou arte presente certesye vs herely how  
we this mater was brought that thou wast thus se-  
cretely conueyed awaye. Joseph dysdayned not to  
gyue theym answere but sayd vnto theym boldely.  
What tyme ye closed me in that house on gode fry-  
daye the morowe vpon whiche is the sabbate daye in  
the mydnyghte when I was hely in my prayers to  
desyre god to be my helpe and socour / sodaynly in þe  
meane tyme þe house that I was in was taken vp by  
þe foure angles. And I sawe Ihesus bryghter thanne

my lyght that ever I sawe afore and for grete fere I  
fell doowne to the erthe / thenne he toke me by the han  
de frome the grounde and wyped my face with a ros  
se and kyssed me and sayd vnto me be not aferde Jo  
seph loke vpon me and knowe thou full well that I  
am he. Thenne lobed I hym and called hym mayster  
Helyas supposynge that he hadde ben Hely the pro  
phete / thenne he spake vnto me and sayd I am not  
Hely but I am Ihesus whose boody thou lettest be  
buried / thenne for by cause I was somdele doubtfull  
of it I sayd vnto hym yf thou be he shewe me þat com  
be wherin I layde the. Thenne he toke me by þat han  
de and broughte me vnto the place where I interyd  
hym. Furthermoze he shewed me the clothe in þat whiche  
I wrapped his body and also the sudarpe that I  
bounde his hede withall. Thenne these thynges seen  
I knewe well that it was Ihesus and I honoured  
hym as my dutye was recytyng these wordes. Bles  
syd be he that is come in the name of god. Thenne he  
toke me by the hande and soo ledde me in myn house  
in the Cyte of Aramathya & sayd vnto me reste thou  
here peacybly these fortye dayes go not forth frome  
thy house. And I shall goo vnto my dyscyples that  
hath grete luste for to se me. And this sayd and done.  
Ihesus vanysshed awaye. Thenne after these fortye  
dayes were hole and fullye complete Joseph of  
Aramathya aboue reherced stedfastly fered his myn  
de in the feruente loue of the fayth / gaue hym selfe to  
the dyscyplyne and doctryne of saynt Whyllyp the ap  
postle of our blessyd lorde Ihesu Cryste. And whan  
that he was suffyciently instructe in his loze and te

chynge / bothe he and his sone Iosephes receyued of  
saynt Phylp the holy sacrament of baptylme / and  
after that Ioseph was sente vpon a message frome  
saynt Iohan the appostle & euangelyst from ephelye  
vnto the glorious moder of Ihesu cryste oure lady  
and also after that was presente with saynt Phylp  
and other dyscyples what tyme that / that glorious  
byrgyn was assumpte in to heuen. And as many thy-  
ges as euer he herde and sawe of oure lord Ihesu  
cryste and of his blessyd moder oure lady saynt Mar-  
ty / he shewed theym and preched theym in dyuerse re-  
gions and places and conuerted moche people vnto  
the crysten fayth and baptyled them. And at the last.  
xv. yere after the glorious assumpcyon of our blessyd  
lady he toke his sone Iosephes with hym and wen-  
te to saynt Phylp in to fraunce and consequently  
as it is wyrtyn in a boke called Graall Ioseph of Ara-  
mathia whiche buryed the body of oure lord Ihesu  
cryste after þ he was baptyled of the holy man saynt  
Phylp the appostle came in to grete Byrtayne whi-  
che was promysed to hym and his wyf & he brought  
with hym his wyfe and his sone Iosephes whome  
our sauoure befoze that tyme hadde made a byllhop  
and consecrate hym in a Cyte called Sara / & there  
came with hym syxe hondred persones of men and  
women and mo / & the men made a solempne bolde  
for to lyue chastely frome theyr wyues vnto the tyme  
they hadde entered in to grete Byrtayne and all the  
nombze brake this bolde excepte .xxxvii. whiche wes  
recomanded by our sauour to passe ouer þe sayl-  
ynge vpon the chyrche of Iosephes and soo came to londe

Upon Ester euen in the moornyng / þ̄ resydue of them  
for as moche as they were pryncent and soȝy for the  
transgressyon of theȝr bowe at thynstaunce & prayer  
alsoof Joseph were brought ouer in a vesselliche  
kyng Salamon craftely had made to cōtynue and  
dure vnto crystes tyme / and þ̄ same daye that theȝr  
cōpanye came vnto londe vpon Josephs shyppe they  
applied vnto londe in þ̄ same vesselliche whiche god had  
prouyded for theȝm whiche were gyded by a duke of  
Medoz named Natianus whome Joseph baptysed  
byfoze in the cyte of Dara / and with theȝm came al  
so the kyng of the same cyte called Morzams to  
whome almyghty god after that appered & shewed  
to hym his syde handes & feet perysshed with the spe  
re and nayles / and whan the kyng Morzams las  
we that he was moued with compassyon and sayd.  
O my lord god what man was so bolde and so pres  
umptuous thus to dele with þ̄ / out sauour and wes  
red to hym agayne and sayd. The false kyng of Noz  
thwales hath this wyse done with me whiche hath  
put my seruaunt Joseph of Aramathya with his com  
pany in pryson and full vnkyndly denyeth them theȝr  
lyuynge for by cause they shewed & preched my name  
in his realme / therfoze sayd almyghty god vnto mor  
zams / gyde the with thy swerde aboute thy myd  
dell and goo with all hast possyble vnto that partyes  
and take vengeance vpon the tyraunt & delyuer my  
seruautes oute of pryson & daunger / whan þ̄ kyng  
woke of his slepe he was full glade of that vysyon  
shewed vnto hym and so set his realme & his houshol  
de in good waye & toke a grete company with hym &

toke his Journey and as god was his guyde he came  
vnto the place where the kynge of Northwales the  
tyraunt was and commaunded hym he sholde pro-  
mytte and suffre the seruautes of almyghty god to  
passe out of pryson and to be at lyberte / the tyraunt  
wolde not in no wyse condescende vnto kynge Mor-  
drams commaundement / but with grete indygnat-  
yon charged hym shortly without delaye to voyde  
out of his londe whan kynge Mordrams herde this  
langage he came slytely vpon hym with his compa-  
ny and with and duke Maciamis aboute sayd & with  
conyngne and Juste vengeance slewe hym / thenne  
this done kynge Mordrams wente vnto the pryson  
where that vnhappye kynge hadde Joseph and his  
company in holde / & with grete Joye brought them  
forth and shewed vnto them the vysyon made vnto  
hym of god and theyr deliuerynge thenne al they  
in grete myrthe thanked god hertely. Thenne kynge  
Mordrams gaue the realme & kynge dome of North-  
wales with the appertenence vnto one called Cely-  
domus sone vnto duke Macianus and gaue hym al-  
so to be his wyfe Labell the kynges doughter of Pers-  
ye whiche Labell the sayd Celydomus with helpe  
and socoure of his fader hadde before with grete dyf-  
fyculte conuerted vnto Cristes fayth whose doubte  
and meruaylous actes be wyrtten in þe booke named  
Gyall aboute rehersed.   

Thus endeth the lyfe of Joseph of Armathe En-  
prynted at London in flete strete at the sygne of the  
sonne by me Wynkyn de Worde. 